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AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A laser source for generating a stable laser beam of a given bandwidth, including a laser and guide means for conducting the laser beam exiting said laser's front facet, comprising

a plurality of external cavities at least partly within or as part of said laser beam guide means, each of said cavities being established by ~~at least~~ two fixed reflectors, one of which being located in said laser beam guide means,

said plurality of external cavities being dimensioned and arranged such that said laser operates essentially in a coherence collapse mode.

13. (Currently Amended) The laser source according to claim 12, wherein

all cavities are situated within the laser beam guide means, ~~preferably~~ in front of the laser.

14. (Previously Presented) The laser source according to claim 12, wherein

one or more cavities are arranged within the laser beam guide means in front of the laser, and

at least one cavity is arranged at the rear of the laser.

15. (Previously Presented) The laser source according to claim 12, including in combination

a "serial" cavity arranged within the laser beam guide means,

a "lateral" cavity arranged outside said laser beam guide means, and

a beam splitter/combiner deflecting a portion of the beam into said lateral cavity.

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16. (Currently Amended) The laser source according to claim 12, wherein

~~two~~ the reflectors located in the laser beam guide means are~~, in particular~~ Bragg gratings~~, are provided,~~ whose peak wavelengths are offset and/or whose bandwidths are different.

17. (Currently Amended) The laser source according to claim 12, wherein

the laser emits light between 800 and 1600nm and/or

any of the reflectors ~~or the beam-splitters/combiners~~ has a reflectivity maximum within the bandwidth of the laser, and/or

a bandwidth of its reflectivity between 0.05 and 2nm full-width half-maximum, and/or

a peak reflectivity between 0.005 and 0.4.

18. (Previously Presented) The laser source according to claim 12, wherein

the optical field established in the first cavity is out of phase with the optical field of the laser, and

the optical field established in the second cavity is out of phase with the optical field established in said first cavity,

thus inhibiting phase matching with the laser and hence coherent operation of said laser source.

19. (Currently Amended) The laser source according to claim 12, wherein

the laser is a semiconductor diode laser~~, especially an InGaAs quantum well diode laser,~~ and/or

the laser guide means comprises an optical fiber, either a polarization-maintaining or non-polarization maintaining optical fiber, and~~/or~~

the reflectors are fiber Bragg gratings within said/a fiber.

20. (Currently Amended) The laser source according to claim 12, further comprising

means for directing the laser beam into the optical fiber, in particular beam collimating or focusing means attached to or integrated into ~~said~~ an optical fiber.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of making a laser source that generates a stable laser beam of a given bandwidth, said laser source having a laser and laser beam guide means in front of said laser, characterized by

simultaneously manufacturing~~, preferably~~ within said laser beam guide means, a plurality of fixed reflectors, which form, together with the laser front facet, ~~the desired~~ a plurality of external cavities in front of said laser.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of making a laser source according to claim 21, whereby

the simultaneous manufacturing is carried out by UV exposure methods creating the reflectors as fiber Bragg gratings in the optical fiber constituting the laser beam guide means.

23. (New) The laser source according to claim 12, wherein

one of the fixed reflectors by which each of the cavities is established is the laser's front facet.

24. (New) The laser source according to claim 15, wherein

the laser emits light between 800 and 1600nm and/or

the beam splitter/combiner has a reflectivity maximum within the bandwidth of the laser, and/or

a bandwidth of its reflectivity between 0.05 and 2nm full-width half-maximum, and/or

a peak reflectivity between 0.005 and 0.4.

25. (New) The laser source according to claim 12, wherein

the laser is an InGaAs quantum well diode laser, and/or

the laser guide means comprises an optical fiber, either a polarization-maintaining or non-polarization maintaining optical fiber, and

the reflectors are fiber Bragg gratings within said fiber.